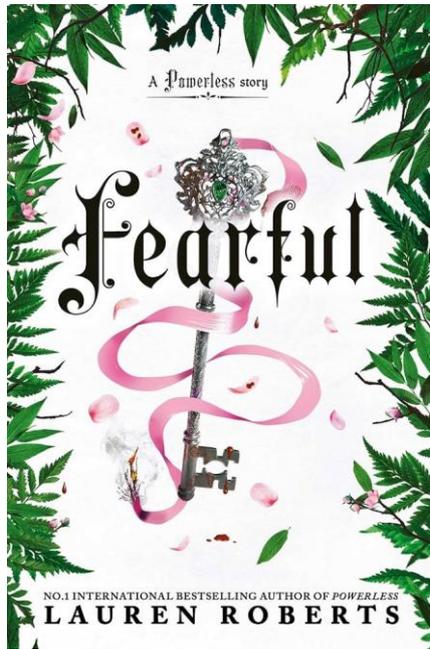


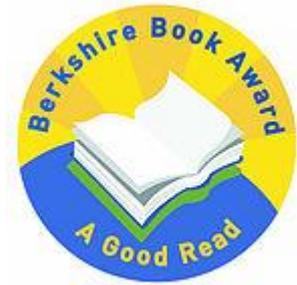
Berkshire Book Award 2026: Longlisted title

Fearful by Lauren Roberts



Mara never intended to set foot in Ilya again. But when the king makes a life-altering decision, her interest is piqued, and Death is determined to understand Kitt Azer's mind if he is destined to join her in the Mors.

Spending time with the king while observing the castle's inhabitants reminds Mara that there is more to life than just death. But even the purest of intentions spur revenge and the pursuit of power. And fate will have its way with all of them – to live, to rule, to love and to die.



Discussion Questions

- Mara is the personification of Death. How does her perspective of life differ from the other characters?
- How is the theme of power explored throughout the book? Which character is impacted the most by their drive for power?
- If you could have any power in the Kingdom of Ilya, what would it be?
- Which character did you relate to the most – Mara, Kitt, Lenny or Blair? Why?
- Do you think that Kitt got the ending he deserved?
- Why do you think being an immortal, like Mara, would be lonely?